AUG 2 6 1999   REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF.

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US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5

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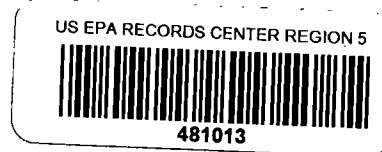
Honorable Tim Roemer
  Member, United States
House of Representatives
217 North Main Street
South Bend, IN 46601

Dear Congressman Roemer:

Thank you for your August 11, 1999, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), expressing the City of Elkhart's desire to redevelop the Himco Superfund Site into a youth golf course. I am pleased to address your concerns on the U.S. EPA's activities at this site.

The U.S. EPA has been working with, and will continue to work with, the City of Elkhart and the developers in the facilitation of redevelopment of the site as a golf course. We are diligently working to expedite the assessment of the Himco Site in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). We have identified some key issues that must be addressed in reconsidering the site's possible new use as a golf course. These issues primarily concern the groundwater and the migration of landfill gases from the site. The final assessment of these issues will be completed in the Fall of 1999.

Hopefully this letter sufficiently addresses your concerns. Gwen Massenburg, Remedial Project Manager (RPM) for the site, will be contacting your assistant to update your office on the site's progress. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ original signed by
   Francis X. Lyons

Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

TIM ROEMER
THIRD DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

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CALL TOLL FREE
1–800–439–3518

August 11, 1999

Mr. David Ullrich
Regional Administrator
USEPA - Region V
Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Administrator Ullrich,

I write in regard to the HIMCO Superfund site in Elkhart, Indiana. It is my understanding that USEPA is currently on site conducting further tests to assess the needs and what steps should be taken to affect a clean up.

Naturally, the health and well-being of the environment and citizens of Elkhart are paramount to us all. It is the goal of the City of Elkhart to see the site converted from a unproductive brownfield site, to a positive-use resource the entire community can enjoy. The city is committed to making this happen, and has community support to see them through the project.
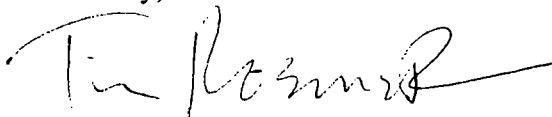
As you may be aware, the City of Elkhart has formed partnerships to redevelop the HIMCO property as a youth golf course. They have performed studies and researched funding. They would like to proceed with their effort while enthusiasm is high, make proposals for funding, and plan for the future. However, this process remains at a stand-still until a resolution on cleanup is secured.

In an effort to assist, I respectfully request that the assessment be accomplished in as timely fashion as possible and that your office do all it can to facilitate a fair, cost-effective solution to the problems presented by this site. Bayer Corporation is a partner in the city's plans and are as anxious as anyone to see the HIMCO property put to good use in the community.

I appreciate your time and attention in the HIMCO Superfund site, especially as it affects so many of my constituents. Further, I would appreciate being kept informed on the progress in this case. Please send any information to, or contact, my assistant Michelle Boxell in my District Office at 217 North Main Street, South Bend 46601 (ph219/288-3301).

Again, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tim Roemer
Member of Congress

TR:mb
cc: Gwen Massenburg, Project Manager

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